Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News Update

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December 1990 Update No. 17

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The Blue Ribbon Panel on Libraries at Risk submitted its final report to members of the State Library Commission at their December 12 meeting in Helena. The panel examined the current state of library services in Montana, assessed future needs and priority development areas, and identified financing methods. Specific recommendations included: more coordination of services and materials among libraries, formation of public library endowments and foundations, and an increasing emphasis on computer networking among libraries. Blue Ribbon Panel members were: Richard Miller, Montana State Librarian; Noreen Alldredge, dean of MSU's Renne Library; Henry McClernan, Montana Tech., Butte; Sidney Poole, Helena school librarian; Margaret Kingsland (vice-chair), Montana Committee for the Humanities executive director, Missoula; Royal Johnson, Billings businessman; Jim Nybo (chair), Helena consulting economist; Richard Dunn, librarian at the UM's Mansfield Library; Peggy Guthrie, Choteau; Judy Browning, deputy state attorney general, Helena; John Delano, Helena lobbyist, and Suzy Holt, medical librarian, Helena. The panel's final report, which the Commission unanimously accepted, is available by calling Mary Jane West at 444-3115.

Tentative dates for 1991 State Library Commission meetings are: February 7, Helena; April 27, Missoula; June 12, Helena; August 14, White Sulphur Springs; October 9, Libby, and December 11, Helena. Commission members also re-elected Mary Doggett as chair and Abe Abramson as vice-chair.

The Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services will be held Sunday, Jan. 6, through Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1991, at the Park Plaza Hotel in Helena. Delegates elected by their regional preconference constituencies will attend, as will at-large delegates selected since the preconferences. Anyone interested in observing the conference is welcome as space permits. All persons attending the conference must check in with conference staff. A preliminary conference agenda is available by contacting Bob Cooper, conference coordinator, at 444-5350.

The Montana Library Association's Legislative Day and Buffet/Reception is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1991, in Helena. A Legislative Workshop will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Montana Historical Society auditorium, while the buffet/reception will be from 6:30-9 p.m. in the lobbies of the Justice and State Library building. Cost is $5 per person. Contact Darlene Staffeldt at 444-5381 by January 2 if you plan to attend.

There's a tie vote for Montana's first statewide Summer Reading Program theme. "Get the 'Bear' Facts--Read!" (with a grizzly bear reading a book) and "Digging Up Books" (with dinosaurs, bones, etc.) are running neck-and-neck among librarians. The ballot was on page 2 of the November issue of the *Montana State Library Newsletter*. Please indicate your choice and mail the ballot or call Cathy Siegner at 444-5353 with your theme choice ASAP so the SRP committee can get moving on the program manual. Artwork illustrating the winning theme will be featured in the January issue.

The 1991 Montana Library Directory is out! They will be mailed before Christmas to public libraries and branches, special, academic and institutional libraries, and to those school libraries that have requested one. Other school libraries wanting a copy should call Diane Gunderson at 444-5349.

Anonymous grants for libraries are showing up in unusual places. A Missoula family recently donated $200,000 to create a library at the Institute of Medicine and Humanities, a joint project between St. Patrick Hospital and the University of Montana. And, in 1988, the Darby Consolidated Schools received a $50,000 gift earmarked for the library which has provided a computer and new shelving for the elementary school library and is now funding a project to update the high school library's card catalog, according to librarian Judy Parker.

Mark your calendars for the Montana Center for the Book debut! The Montana Center for the Book, created this past April, is making a spectacular debut on Friday and Saturday, February 8 & 9, 1991, in Helena. Friday's event will be a free champagne and dessert reception with entertainment at the Montana Club, while Saturday's program--"Literary Lights of the Big Sky"--at the Lewis & Clark Public Library will feature a morning session on the book arts and book design and an afternoon panel of Montana authors discussing and reading from their works. The Center has received a Montana Committee for the Humanities grant to help cover the costs of the Saturday program. Confirmed to appear Saturday afternoon are Ivan Doig, who will receive the Governor's Award for the Arts in Literature on February 7, Linda Peavey and Ursula Smith, Matt Pavelich, David Long, Lynda Sexson and Barry Ferst. Additional details will be in the January newsletter.

To give away: 50 wooden card file boxes. The Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped at the State Library has 50 wooden card boxes (they hold 3"x5" cards) to give away. Call Gen Allen at 444-2064 for more information.

Boulder's plans for a new public library are moving ahead. Land has been donated for the new building across the street from the current facility, and fundraising is underway by the Jefferson County Library board and Friends of the Boulder Library so construction can start early next spring.

The following meetings and events are scheduled for DECEMBER/JANUARY:

December	25	Christmas holiday
January	1	New Year's Day holiday
	7	Montana Legislature convenes
	6-8	Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, Park Plaza Hotel, Helena
	8	MLA Legislative Day, Helena
	9	Library Services Advisory Council, Helena
	12-17	ALA Midwinter Meeting, Chicago
	20-26	Montana Book Week (and National Book Week)

Happy Holidays from the Montana State Library

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